The Cleveland Museum of Art

Press Release

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THE CLEVELAND MUSEUM OF ART OFFERS VENEZUELAN MOVIES ON WEDNESDAY EVENINGS
Venezuela: Forty Years of Cinema, 1950-1990
Wednesday evenings, May 3-31, 1995. Admission $4, $3 CMA members

Showing Wednesday evenings in May at the Cleveland Museum of Art ere are five highlights from the first historical survey of Venezuelan cinema ever presented in the U.S., shown last December at The Museum of Modern Art. The five movies suggest the range of Venezuelan filmmaking—from studio-made escapist melodrama (*The "Isabel" Arrived This Afternoon*) of the forties and fifties to soul-searching sixties and seventies social-realist dramas (*Young Cain, The Smoking Fish*) to revisionist political tales of today (*Macu, the Policeman's Wife, Jericó*).

"Venezuela: Forty Years of Cinema, 1950-1990" was co-curated by Karen Schwartzman and Laurence Kardish, and supported by The Museum of Modern Art, New York; the Consejo Nacional de la Cultura (CONAC); Centro Nacional Autónomo de Cinematografía (CNAC); Fundación Cinemateca Nacional; Asociación Nacional de Autores Cinematográficos (ANAC) and United Airlines. Presented by International Film Circuit, Inc.

Wednesday/3 May, 7:30 pm *The "Isabel" Arrived This Afternoon* (Venezuela, 1950, b&w, subtitles, 111 min.) Directed by Carlos Hugo Christensen. Lively, lurid melodrama in which a sea captain's infatuation with a temptress takes a dangerous voodoo turn. Best Cinematography, Cannes 1950. "A kind of tropical vampire story." -*Village Voice*.

Wednesday/10 May, 7:30 pm *Young Cain* (Venezuela, 1959, b&w, subtitles, 122 min.) Directed by Román Chalbaud. A mother and her teenage son move to Caracas and confront misery in the hillside slums.

Wednesday/17 May, 7:30 pm *The Smoking Fish* (Venezuela, 1976, color, subtitles, 115 min.) Directed by Román Chalbaud. This famous film is an allegory of love, betrayal and power set in a local whorehouse.

Wednesday/24 May, 7:30 pm *Macu, the Policeman's Wife* (Venezuela, 1987, color, subtitles, 90 min.) Directed by Solveig Hoogesteijn. Venezuelan boxoffice smash tells how the forced marriage of an 11-year-old girl to a much-older man led to a cop's murder spree. Cleveland premiere. "A fascinating blend of tabloid sensationalism, Tarantinoesque elliptical narration, and incipient feminism." —*Village Voice*.

Wednesday/31 May, 7:30 pm *Jericó* (Venezuela, 1990, color, subtitles, 90 min.) Directed by Luis Alberto Lamata. A 16th-century Dominican monk intent on converting New Spain's indigenous peoples is instead converted by them. Cleveland premiere.

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